



Montello, a small paradise for two wheels

The Treviso hills on the banks of the Piave River are preparing to host the next round of the Internazionali d'Italia series in an area rich in cycling culture, history and scenery.

The 'XC del Montello', scheduled for the weekend of 3-5 May, is just a few days away and will be the third stage of the most important Italian cross-country race.

The course that the athletes will face is located in the Rive degli Angeli estate, in the municipality of Nervesa della Battaglia. This is a 27-hectare estate managed by the Bosco Montello Consortium on the northern slopes of Montello, 20 hectares of which are a profitable vineyard, while the rest is made up of meadows and woods, with two large farmhouses in the middle. This is where the event headquarters will be located, as well as the start and finish areas for the various competitions.

Montello is a well-known area for local cycling enthusiasts, with its 21 prese (small roads that go up one side of the hill and down the other) ideal terrain for both road and mountain biking.

However, the area has also been of great importance to the Veneto region since the time of the Serenissima Republic of Venice, which used it as a strategic timber reserve due to its proximity to the Piave River.

The area was later affected by the fierce fighting of the First World War, when it was at the centre of the Austrian offensive in June 1918 and the subsequent "Battle of the Solstice", in which the Italian army finally managed to repulse the enemy and end the war in Italy.

There are many monuments that bear witness to these events, including the Sacratio del Montello, in Nervesa della Battaglia, and the 'MeVe', the Veneto Great War Memorial, in Montebelluna.

The "MeVe" is part of a fundamental synergy for the promotion of the area, which also includes "Montello Travel" and the aforementioned "Consorzio del Bosco Montello", made up of the five municipalities of Montebelluna, Volpago del Montello, Giviera del Montello, Crocetta del Montello and Nervesa della Battaglia.

The fact that this is an area that has been able to transform its history into a rich landscape will be demonstrated in 2020 by the inauguration of the "La Tradotta" cycle path from Nervesa della Battaglia to Montebelluna. This is a cycle path that follows the old railway line built during the First World War to transport soldiers to the front.

With the Marathon World Championships to be held here in 2011, Montello also has an illustrious history in mountain biking.

On the weekend of 3rd-5th May, a new chapter will be added to the history books, beginning with the Italian Short Track Championships on Friday 3rd May and continuing throughout the weekend with the presence of the great athletes of the Internazionali d'Italia series, who will bring prestige to a unique area that year after year is becoming a small paradise for two wheels.